

Appln. N . 09/932,659

Amendment dated January 20, 2004

Response to Office Action dated October 17, 2003

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please add the following new paragraph after paragraph [0012]:

[0012.1] The subject invention provides the following advantages over the prior art:

- Allows an imaging plate (IP) to be run through a computed radiography reader without manually removing the IP from the cassette.
- Prevents the loss of image information between IP's by overlap of IP's.
- Provides imaging capability for automatically processing images up to 14" x 34", previously 14" x 17" was the maximum size.
- Enables convenient use of the Fuji Computed Radiography scoliosis and long leg examinations.

Please replace paragraph [0017] with the following amended paragraph:

[0017] FIG. 1A Shows a side-view of a an imaging plate (IP) cassette of the invention in which two standard size cassettes are modified to provide for an extended ~~x-ray~~ X-ray image of a target:

Please replace paragraph [0018] with the following amended paragraph:

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[0018] FIG. 1B Shows a an edge-view of a an imaging plate cassette of the invention in which two standard size cassettes are modified to provide for an extended ~~x-ray~~ X-ray image of a target.

Please replace paragraph [0019] with the following amended paragraph:

[0019] FIG. 2 Shows two imaging plates of the invention inserted into a modified ~~x-ray~~ X-ray cassette in an overlapping confirmation.

Please add the following new paragraph after paragraph [0024]:

[0024.1] As shown in Figs. 3A and 3b, for example, this invention involves an X-ray film cassette with a rectangular cartridge body having a front wall 4, a pair of side walls 2 and a back wall 6. A rectangular cover 14 is hinged at one side thereof to the back wall 6 of the body by a hinge 12. A latch 8 is provided at one side of the cover 14 opposite to the hinged side, this latch 8 being manually operable to be moved from a latching position to a released position. A slot is provided in the front wall 4 of the body to engage the latch 8 of the cover 14, and at least two imaging plates 18 are provided for recording an image generated by an X-ray source. The imaging plates 18 are arranged in partial overlapping relation overlap so as to prevent a loss of diagnostic information.

Please replace paragraph [0029] with the following amended paragraph:

[0029] The method in accordance with the present invention comprises maintaining an X-ray film and a stimuable phosphor sheet in close contact with each other and shielded from light, and exposing said X-ray film and said

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stimulable phosphor sheet to X-rays through an object. ~~object, whereby a x-ray~~
The X-ray image of said object is then scanned by a laser and digitally recorded in
a computed radiography reader. ~~on said stimulable phosphor sheet and, at~~ At the
same time, said X-ray film is exposed to light instantaneously emitted from said
stimulable phosphor sheet upon exposure to X-rays to record a photographic
latent image of the same ~~x-ray~~ X-ray image on said X-ray film.